

Starburst

Your DOE-VPP News Source

This edition provides details concerning recent meetings of the DOE-VPP Laboratory Group and Cleanup Sites Group and reports from the Hanford Workshop and VPPPA conference.

Workers and Managers Partner for Safety at DOE-VPP Workshop

Workers and managers partnered for safety at the Department of Energy's Voluntary Protection Program (DOE-VPP) Workshop at the Doubletree Hotel in Pasco, WA, from September 22-24, 1997. DOE employees, contractors and subcontractors, as well as industry, other government, and union representatives explored the DOE-VPP process through two plenary sessions, four panels, and twenty breakout sessions to learn about successful safety programs and gain a better understanding of VPP.

Kicking off the workshop on Tuesday, September 23, were John Wagoner, Manager, Richland Operations Office, and Hank Hatch, President and Chief Executive Officer, Fluor Daniel Hanford, Inc. In his keynote address, "DOE and VPP—An Industry Perspective", Gerard Scannell, President of the National Safety Council, emphasized, "Consider safety a value, not a priority because priorities change". Mr. Scannell discussed his experiences as Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and as a Vice President for Johnson & Johnson. He stressed that real commitment

with involvement is essential for a good safety and health program, especially when so many companies and government are downsizing. In support of VPP, Mr. Scannell maintains, "Being involved in the VPP program, you are in the rarefied air,...you are the best of the best,...I congratulate you for that!"

Tara O'Toole, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health, and Alvin Alm, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, were keynote speakers on Wednesday, September 24 before an audience of over 1000. "Total employee involvement is the true strength of the VPP process; and without that degree of commitment and involvement, you cannot achieve the level of excellence required for DOE-VPP recognition," asserted Dr. O'Toole in her last address before leaving the Department. In his closing remarks, Mr. Alm maintained "Excellence in VPP with obtaining STAR status is not the end, it provides a path and recognition for success in worker safety and health."

Continued on page2



(Left to right) John Wagoner, Manager, Richland Operations Office, and Tara O'Toole, former Assistant Secretary of Environment, Safety and health, listen as Alvin Alm, Assistant Secretary of Environmental Management, answers a question from the audience during a Workshop plenary.

Workers and Managers Partner for Safety at DOE-VPP Workshop **continued from page 1**

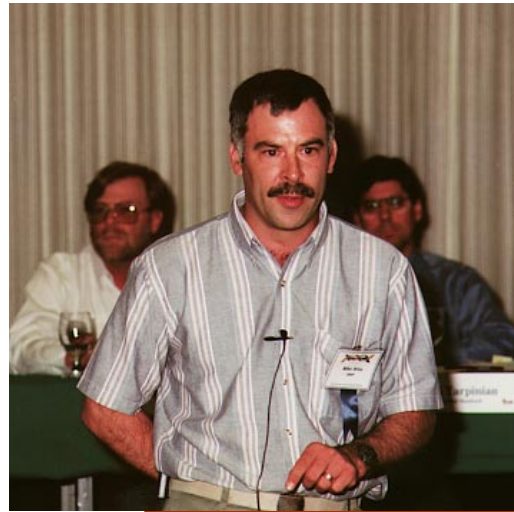
Four VPP-related plenary panels were conducted before and after breakout sessions:

- “*Worker Involvement—Partnering for Success*” was discussed by Hanford union representatives.
- “*Importance of Safety Management in Transition to External Regulation*” was discussed by a management panel comprised of representatives from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Administration (WISHA), the Richland Operations Office, and DOE Headquarters.
- “*Achieving VPP at Hanford*” was the focus of a senior managers panel consisting of representatives from Fluor Daniel Hanford, Inc., Numatec Hanford Corp., DynCorp Tri-Cities Services, Inc., Lockheed Martin Hanford Corp., Babcock & Wilcox Hanford Corp., Duke Engineering & Services of Hanford, Inc., and Waste Management Federal Services of Hanford, Inc.
- “*Importance of Partnership to VPP*” was discussed by a panel with representatives from industry, union, OSHA, and a DOE Star site.

Participants were offered 20 diverse, interactive breakout sessions each day on safety culture, employee involvement and empowerment, onsite review process, line management issues, and contracts. To obtain breakout session handouts, call Tracey O’Neal at (509) 376-8990.

Highlighting the DOE-VPP Workshop dinner was keynote speaker, Joe Dear, Chief of Staff to the Governor of Washington, and former Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Labor. “The pride and...sense of accomplishment that workers and managers display when they get a VPP Star is one of the most gratifying experiences...,” said Mr. Dear, who discussed how everyone must make a personal commitment to worker health and safety and the benefits and hard work involved in pursuing VPP. He concluded his speech with “All we’re really talking about is making sure that when a man or woman leaves home in the morning and goes to work, they will come home at the end of the day, with their bodies unharmed, their souls intact, and their dignity uncompromised.”

DOE-VPP Hanford Workshop videos of plenary sessions, the keynote dinner presentation and conferring of awards, and four breakout sessions—Integrated Safety Management Systems, Pursuing Safety and Health as a Subcontractor, DOE and Contractor Partnership, and When Management and Labor Agendas Align—are available for viewing. Hanford area employees may call Tracey O’Neal at (509) 376-8990; those in other areas may call Paulette Bosco at (301) 903-4343 to check out videos. Check out the DOE-VPP Home Page also.



Mike Wise, B&W Protec, addresses the audience during the “Total Safety Culture” breakout.

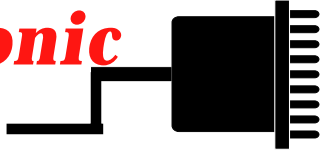


Gerard F. Scannell, President, National Safety Council, presents the keynote address on Tuesday.



Joseph A. Dear, chief of Staff to the Governor of Washington, addresses “The Power of Partnership” during his keynote speech at Tuesday’s dinner.

DOE-VPP Electronic Times



Here's the latest! George Schlossnagle will be the new Point of Contact for the revised DOE VPP Home Page, <http://tis-nt.eh.doe.gov/Vpp/>. Your ideas and comments for improving our home page will be appreciated. You may contact George at george.schlossnagle@hq.doe.gov, or 301-903-9418.

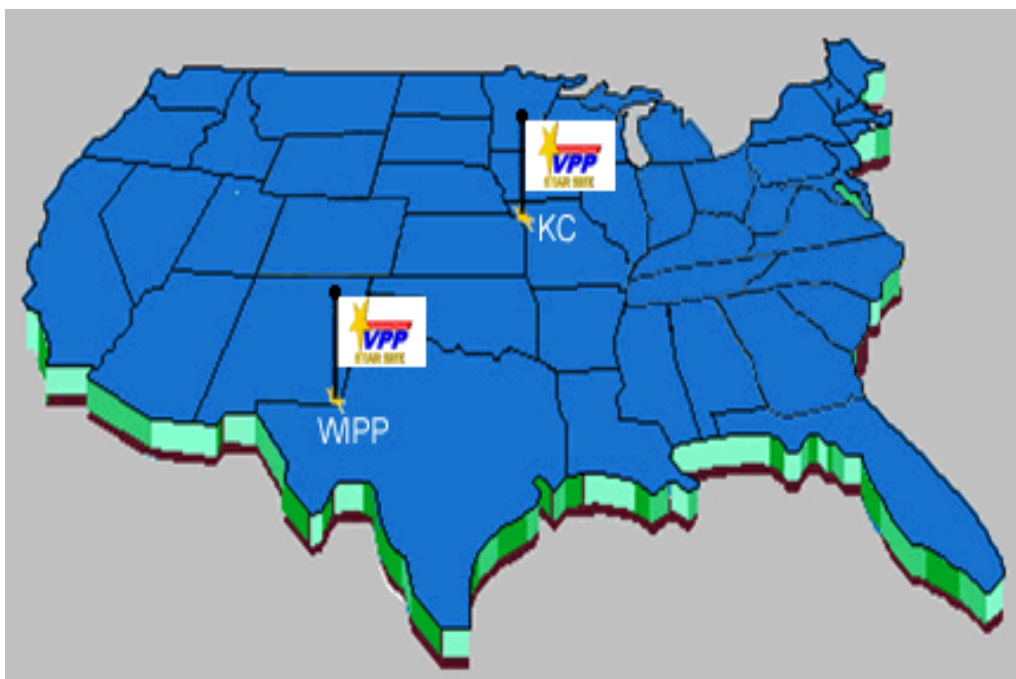
Other links of interest include:

- The Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association (VPPPA), <http://www.fiesta.com/VPPPA/>. The VPPPA is a leader in safety, health, and environmental excellence through cooperative efforts among labor, management, and government. The more than 300 members of the VPPPA are companies and sites which are involved in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) or the Department of Energy's VPP.



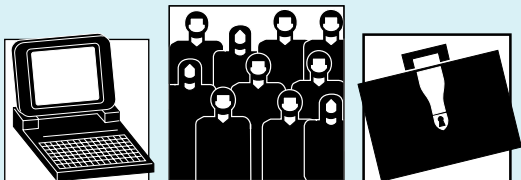
Oklahoma State University Environmental Health and Safety

- Oklahoma State University has an excellent Environmental Health and Safety Home Page, <http://www.pp.okstate.edu/ehs/>. Online safety manuals from universities and government agencies can be found at <http://www.pp.okstate.edu/ehs/links/manuals.htm>. Oklahoma's page provides links to many useful health and safety links at <http://www.pp.okstate.edu/ehs/links/links.htm>. It's worth a look.
- Interested in finding a federal regulation, Federal Register Notice, or a law affecting the VPP Program? For a first start try <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/index.html> which is published by the National Archives and Records Administration.
- If you need to identify or clarify a standard or regulation applicable to a specific work situation, consider using The DOE Worker Safety and Health Standards Response Line Web Site at <http://tis-nt.eh.doe.gov/rl/>. If you are unable to use the web site, you can also fax your request to 301-903-9976 or you can call 1-800-292-8061. Due to transitional staffing at the beginning of this fiscal year, you may have to leave a voice mail.

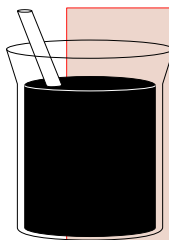


Annual VPPPA Conference (Sept. 8-12, 1997)

Monday morning brought together DOE contractors in a discussion of "Best Practices" and the efforts of the Cleanup Sites and the National Labs Groups. On the Monday afternoon and Tuesday preceding the conference opening, the Lab Group met to discuss their White Paper (see related article). The conference opened on Wednesday to nearly 2000 participants (an increase of 37% over last year). The opening session included speeches by Greg Watchman, Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, and John Dillon, CEO and Chairman of International Paper. According to Watchman, the most important aspect of VPP is its goal to return workers home safely at the end of the day. Over 370 sites have OSHA VPP status. Some 60 of these companies are currently paired in outreach/mentoring programs. Watchman challenged conference participants to a deeper commitment to health and safety, saying "do not settle back when over 25 workers are injured every minute even today." Workshops over the next two days explored many varied topics including program evaluation, emergency response, employee involvement, environmental management, union involvement, mentoring, and onsite evaluations. The HQ DOE-VPP team presented a session on "How to Conduct a DOE-VPP Program Evaluation," as well as an open forum on Thursday afternoon. At the forum, several concerns over contract incentives, field office review delays, jobs, and privatization were expressed.



Responding to a request from the Fernald Site, DOE EH-5 personnel organized a meeting of DOE cleanup site representatives at Fernald on July 23rd and 24th. After listing perceived barriers to DOE-VPP, participants agreed on a tentative work plan and to meet again. The Group elected Shannon Hall of Fernald and Dale Miller of Mound as co-chairs. The DOE-VPP Cleanup Sites Group met for their quarterly conference at the Eastern Tennessee Technology Park (formerly K-25) in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The team had a lively discussion on the VPP application process, team logistics, and the many programs similar to VPP (such as ISMS).



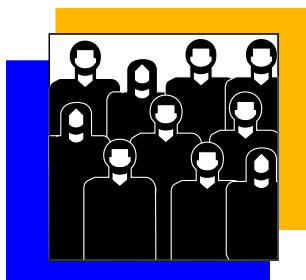
Laboratory DOE-VPP Meetings

In September, the Laboratory DOE-VPP Group met in New Orleans to discuss that Group's white paper. The Group meeting, attended by over 15 field and Headquarters representatives, began with a detailed discussion of the self-assessment survey - one of three parts of the White Paper. The survey was designed to determine where sites were with respect to the DOE-VPP elements. Discussion continued to a second day, resulting in revisions to the survey report.

The white paper, due to be completed by the end of the year, will discuss the results of the laboratory site gap survey, outline the relationship between ISMS and DOE-VPP, and detail VPP benefits. The Group also plans to include that there should be some regulatory relief or other incentive for laboratory sites that achieve DOE-VPP status.

On Thursday morning, the Group met with Joe Fitzgerald, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Worker Health and Safety (EH-5). Joel Wong, Group Chair, outlined the projected content of the white paper and its intention. Joe Fitzgerald supported the efforts of the Group and offered his staff's assistance in locating private sector laboratories that have achieved VPP status.

Happenings



LARGE SITE CUSTOMERS

Nancy Hammond
301-903-1731

How do you keep management informed of DOE-VPP developments?

Send a VPP-GRAM to the site President, as does **Lockheed Martin Idaho Technologies Company**. Several interesting publications, such as LMITCO Voluntary Protection Program Employee Handbook, VPP Passport to Success 1997, etc. were distributed at the VPPPPA conference. Idaho is mentoring J.R. Simplot, a private fertilizer company in Pocatello, Idaho. Regular videoconferences are also held with LMITCO, DOE-ID, and DOE-HQ participating. Idaho is anticipating submitting their application to DOE-ID this year.

Fluor Daniel Hanford and the Richland Operations Office co-hosted a DOE-VPP "Partnering for Safety" workshop from September 22 to 24, 1997 in Pasco, WA. See the article on page 2.

The **Pantex** onsite evaluation continues to be delayed at the site's request.

Westinghouse/Bechtel (Savannah River Site) DOE-VPP status continues to be on hold pending closure of a Price-Anderson investigation.

Wackenhut Services, Inc. (Savannah River Site) has submitted an application to EH Headquarters.

NATIONAL LAB CUSTOMERS

Dan Marsick
301-903-3954

A core group is working together under the leadership of Joel Wong (510-424-6985) to promote voluntary protection programs at the national laboratories. See the article on page 2. Another meeting to discuss the final draft of the White Paper was held on November 10.

The **Brookhaven National Laboratory** contract, to be announced soon, is expected to contain provisions that encourage excellence through a VPP-like safety and health program. Joel Wong, as Chairman of the National Lab Group, participated in a breakout session at the Hanford DOE-VPP Workshop in late September.

CLEANUP SITE CUSTOMERS

Sanji Kanth
301-903-4516

Fernald sponsored the first meeting of the **Cleanup Site Group** on July 23 and 24, 1997. The Group's second meeting was held on November 6 and 7 at the **East Tennessee Technology Park**. See article on page 3.

West Valley Nuclear Services, West Valley Field Office, and NYSERDA, a New York state environmental agency, sponsored a safety fair in October for **West Valley** workers. Over 750 employees attended exhibits and workshops at the Site. DOE-VPP was well represented among the variety of safety organizations.

MK-Ferguson at the Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project (WSSRAP) located in St. Charles, Missouri had their onsite evaluation the week of November 17th.

STAR/MERIT PARTNERS

Ron Eimer
301-903-4669

WIPP has been recommended for ISO 14001 certification. EPA has given preliminary approval to a DOE plan for establishing the nation's first waste isolation pilot plant. The plant is scheduled to open in May 1998. Merl Rosenthal (505) 234-8902 has been named the new DOE-VPP coordinator at WIPP.

HEADQUARTERS

Ron Eimer
301-903-4435

VPPPA NEWS:

The VPPPA Conference was a successful event with nearly 2000 attendees. See related article, p. 3. We hope to see many of you at next year's conference in Chicago. In "**The Leader**" (the VPPPA magazine), look for a speech presented by Manuel Mederos of the IBEW Safety and Health Department.

"There is nothing permanent except change."

Heraclitus

576-641, Byzantine

???? Q AND A ????

1. Must I send my application to the DOE Field Office?

Under present policies, all DOE-VPP applications are first submitted to the DOE Field Office for review.

2. What will happen to DOE-VPP sites if there is transition to OSHA?

A small amount of paper work is anticipated and some confirmatory onsite evaluations will be necessary when and if OSHA transition takes place.

3. What about oversight relief for VPP-status Sites?

This was suggested when the DOE-VPP program first got started. OSHA releases VPP Star and Merit sites from the selection pool for random inspection visits. It may be time to reexamine the issue.

4. Where can I get the latest STARBURST?

The current issue is always on the web site (www.eh.doe.gov/vpp) within two days of publication. If you need a hard copy, call the editor, Dan Marsick at 301-903-3954.

Personal Notes



The DOE-VPP Team was profoundly affected by the untimely death of its former team member Ray Rogers. Ray had retired from the DOE in January and was living in Florida at the time of his death in early October.

**send contributions
to the editor**

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Calendar

December 30

Deadline for Winter 1997 Starburst

Bibliography

Richardson, Margaret R. **Managing Worker Safety and Health for Excellence**. 1997. Van Nostrand Reinhold. (Ed. Note- Peggy has worked with the HQ DOE-VPP team on evaluations)

Weinberg, Judith. OSHA Cooperative Efforts: A Good Deal for Workers and Employers. **Job Safety & Health Quarterly** pp. 11-15, Summer 1997.

Nussbaum, Julie A. Few small businesses have the resources for OSHA's VPP but "Cluster Mentoring" can help. **Industrial Safety and Hygiene News**. p. 53. October 1997.

Hoeschen, Dan. Trekking North to Find a Star. (VPP evaluation in Alaska). **Job Safety & Health Quarterly** pp. 16-24, Summer 1997. (Ed. Note- Joe Eziaguirre mentioned in this article is presently the West Valley DOE Field Office DOE-VPP contact)

Kallenborn, James. OSHANET 1997. (OSHA InterNet Information Systems). **Job Safety & Health Quarterly** pp. 34-36, Summer 1997.

OSHA Publications:
(available from OSHA Publications Office,
P.O. Box 37535, Washington, D.C. 20013-
7535 or FAX to (202) 219-9266)

So You Want to Apply to VPP? Here's How to Do It!

OSHA. 1997.

What to Expect During OSHA's Visit
OSHA. 1997.

You've Been Selected to Be a VPP Onsite
Team Member! Now What? OSHA. 1997.

